



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds  
Governor

Adam Gregg  
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven  
Director

DEC 15 2017

The Honorable Kim Reynolds  
Governor  
State Capitol  
LOCAL

Dear Governor Reynolds:

Enclosed please find a copy of a report to the General Assembly relative to Public Assistance Programs.

This one-time report was prepared pursuant to directive contained in HF 531 of the 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

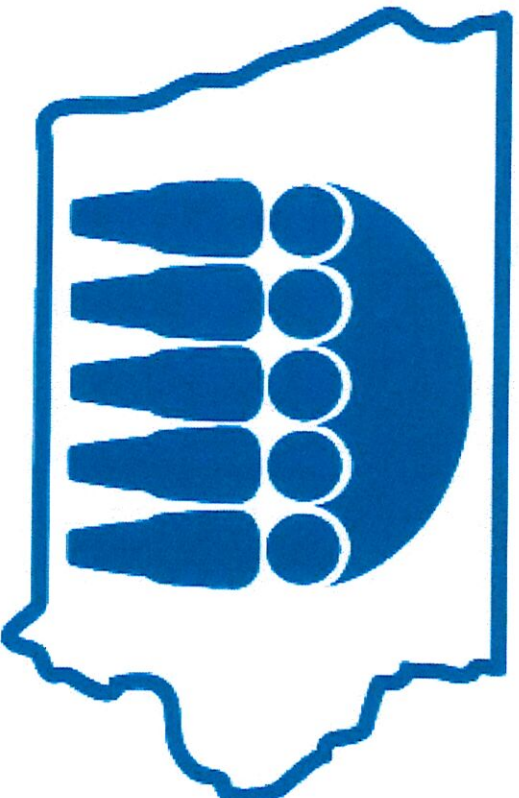
Sincerely,

Jerry R. Foxhoven  
Director

JRF:tv

Enclosure

# **Iowa Department of Human Services**



## ***Public Assistance Programs***

***HF 531***

**December 2017**

## **Executive Summary:**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) reviewed a pilot program related to data sharing between states to increase program integrity and eliminate dual participation in Medicaid, Food Assistance, Family Investment Program (FIP), and Child Care Assistance (CCA).

Per the governor's direction, DHS worked with the Department of Revenue (IDR), Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), and Department of Investigations and Appeals (DIA) to validate the need for data sharing, as well as to standardize data sharing processes.

A federal mandate requires that state Medicaid agencies implement an Asset Verification System (AVS) for verifying the assets of aged, blind and disabled applicants for, and recipients of, Medicaid.

## **Introduction:**

In accordance with HF 531 of the 87th General Assembly, the department of human services shall review state efforts, including pilot programs related to data sharing between states and technology-based solutions designed to curb interstate dual participation, to address program integrity for public assistance programs including Medicaid, the family investment program (FIP), the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), and the child care assistance program.

## **Body of the Report:**

### **National Accuracy Clearinghouse**

The National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC) is an effort to prevent dual participation between states across several human services programs. The program started with a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in June 2014. NAC is currently active only in the five original states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. At this time FNS has halted adding additional states as they are reviewing policy. FNS has not communicated a definitive time frame for adding additional state programs to the NAC. Iowa has reached out to FNS and indicated an interest once the program accepts state applications again.

There is currently a program in place to combat dual participation in all 50 states and additional territories. The Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) is a data match that shows any persons receiving duplicate benefits in multiple states. This information is investigated, action taken, and penalties applied when appropriate. The difference between PARIS and NAC is based on timing. The PARIS integrity match occurs quarterly after recipients are issued benefits. NAC is unique in that it is designed



to prevent issuing duplicate benefits by matching possible recipients in other states prior to issuing benefits in another state.

### **Multi-State Agency Workgroup**

Per the governor's direction, DHS worked with the Department of Revenue (IDR), Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), and Department of Investigations and Appeals (DIA) to validate the need for data sharing, as well as to standardize data sharing processes. The project also included creating a framework and protocols that ensure not only collaborative data sharing, but also analysis of the shared data and distribution of the analysis results. A report on the effort is forthcoming and will be shared when approved by relevant agency directors.

### **Asset Verification System**

With the implementation of an AVS in Iowa, DHS will electronically verify resources a Medicaid applicant currently has, or has had, in financial institutions whether the applicant identified the specific institution on their application or not. This capability will broaden the number of financial institutions searched, the time frame reviewed for activity, and should reduce the time between request and return of verification information. The AVS was recently released to a pilot group to locate unreported resources that may make a member ineligible for Medicaid. The contractor, Accuity, Inc., will be paid when an applicant or member is denied or cancelled from Medicaid for being over the resource limit if the source of those resources was not previously known by the department but were identified and reported by AVS.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations:**

DHS continues to wait for FNS to open membership for the NAC, but continues ongoing integrity fraud efforts already in place.

A report on the multi-agency integrity effort is forthcoming and will be shared when approved by relevant agency directors.

The AVS will continue to roll out incrementally to more Medicaid programs and areas.